

MODERN FAKED PERFINS

By Tony Llewellyn-Edwards

There has been a number of faked perfins released onto the market in the last six months. This problem is under investigation by a group of perfin collectors in a number of countries and the source has been identified in Romania. (*Ed:- See Bulletin 264 [June 1993], 291 [Dec 1997] and 294 [June 1998] for other modern forgeries supposedly coming from either Romania, Poland or simply 'Eastern Europe'.*) Evidence is being collected and action will be taken against the perpetrator.

In the meantime collectors should be aware. Fakes from this source have been seen on stamps of most countries, Commonwealth and Foreign, but we have not seen any on UK or US issues (*See Bulletin 294*) The number of fakes identified to date runs into the high hundreds - this is a large operation.

Basically the fakes are poor quality and should not fool an alert collector. The designs are poorly formed and are most shapes, or single letters. The machine used has a sharp pointed pin, which does not remove paper from the stamp, but simply perforates the paper. It is usually clear that the stamp could not have been used on an envelope after it had been perfined. Typical examples are shown below.

